

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



INTRODUCTION

The Trucial States of the Persian Gulf coast granted the UK control of their defense and foreign affairs in 19th century treaties. In 1971, six of these states - Abu Dhabi, 'Ajman, Al Fujayrah, Ash Shariqah, Dubayy, and Umm al Qaywayn - merged to form the United Arab Emirates (UAE). They were joined in 1972 by Ra's al Khaymah.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President KHALIFA bin Zayid Al-Nuhayyan

Head of Government

Prime Minister Vice President MUHAMMAD BIN RASHID Al-Maktum

Government Type

federation of monarchies

Capital

Abu Dhabi

Legislature

unicameral Federal National Council or Majlis al-Ittihad al-Watani (40 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 83,600 sq km
Land: 83,600 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

desert; cooler in eastern mountains

Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

historically oil-driven Middle Eastern economy; diversifying into a trade-oriented logistics and supply chain leader; weak domestic business growth; declining real estate sector; new Israeli technology trade improving resilience; key aid donor

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$655.8 billion (2019 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$67,120 (2019 est.)

Industries - petroleum and petrochemicals, fishing, aluminum, cement, fertilizer, commercial ship repair, construction materials

Agricultural products - dates, cucumbers, tomatoes, goat meat, eggs, milk, poultry, carrots/turnips, goat milk

Exports \$308.5 billion (2017 est.)

crude and refined petroleum, gold, jewelry, broadcasting equipment (2019)

partners: India 11%, Japan 10%, Saudi Arabia 7%, Switzerland 6%, China 6%, Iraq 6% (2019)

Imports \$229.2 billion (2017 est.)

gold, broadcasting equipment, jewelry, refined petroleum, diamonds (2019)

partners: China 15%, India 12%, US 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

9.9 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.62% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Emirati 11.6%, South Asian 59.4% (includes Indian 38.2%, Bangladeshi 9.5%, Pakistani 9.4%, other 2.3%), Egyptian 10.2%, Filipino 6.1%, other 12.8% (2015 est.)

Language

Arabic (official), English, Hindi, Malayam, Urdu, Pashto, Tagalog, Persian

Religion

Muslim (official) 76%, Christian 9%, other (primarily Hindu and Buddhist) 15% (2005 est.)

note: data represent the total population; as of 2019, immigrants make up about 87.9% of the total population, according to UN data

